

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed February 8, 2006. At the time of the Final Office Action, Claims 1-6 and 8-13 were pending in this Application. Claims 7 and 14-19 were previously cancelled due to an election/restriction. Claims 1-6 and 8-13 stand rejected. Applicants request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-6 and 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0032025 filed by Gary A. Lenz et al. ("Lenz"), and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,615,367 issued to C. Richard Unkle et al. ("Unkle") Applicants respectfully traverse and submit the cited art combinations, even if proper, which Applicants do not concede, does not render the claimed embodiment of the invention obvious.

Claims 1-5 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0166082 filed by Michael J. Ramadei et al. ("Ramadei"), and further in view of Unkle. Applicants respectfully traverse and submit the cited art combinations, even if proper, which Applicants do not concede, does not render the claimed embodiment of the invention obvious.

The Examiner stated that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 stands because Applicants' submission of the invention disclosure forms is not sufficient. Applicants hereby submit declarations according to 37 C.F.R. §1.131 as well as the respective German invention disclosure and respective English translation thereof. Thus, Applicants believe that all necessary documents are now submitted to exclude the Lenz and Ramadei references as being prior art. Thus, Applicants believe that all pending claims are now allowable.

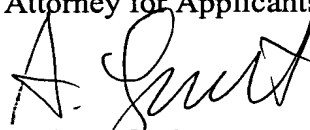
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims as amended.

Applicants enclose a Petition for Extension of Time for one-month and a check in the amount of \$120.00 for the extension fee. Applicants believe there are no additional fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P. in order to effectuate this filing.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2545.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorney for Applicants



Andreas Grubert
Limited Recognition No. L0225
Expires June 30, 2006
Limited Recognition Under 37 C.F.R. §11.9(b)

Date: May 24, 2006

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
CUSTOMER ACCOUNT NO. **31625**
512.322.2545
512.322.8383 (fax)